

Message Text

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S E C R E T ROME 9217

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, IT (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO ROME

1. IN MEETING TODAY WITH DCM, FOREIGN OFFICE SECRETARY GENERAL GAJA PROVIDED LATEST RUNDOWN OF SUBJECTS WHICH ITALIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE DISCUSSED DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT. NOTING THAT RANGE OF TOPICS WAS NOT YET QUITE FIRM, GAJA ASSURED US THAT OUTLINE HE PROVIDED WOULD GENERALLY COVER MAJOR ITEMS OF INTEREST. GAJA ALSO NOTED THAT EFFORT BEING MADE TO WORK OUT DIVISION OF LABOR BETWEEN LEONE, RUMOR AND MORO IN ORDER TO AVOID MULTIPLE COVERAGE OF SAME SUBJECTS. AT SAME TIME HE INDICATED THAT ALL THREE WOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT ITALIAN INTERNAL SITUATION, INCLUDING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND POLITICAL PROSPECTS.

2. ACCORDING GAJA, MORO WILL WANT TO SAY A FEW WORDS ON ITALIAN FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL, TOUCHING ON GOI'S POSITION WITHIN NATO AND RELATIONS WITH THE US IN ORDER TO SHOW THAT, DESPITE DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, ITALY IS "NOT ENTIRELY USELESS". MORO WILL ALSO HAVE SOME REMARKS ON THE WESTERN EUROPEAN SCENE INCLUDING THE IMPACT OF NEW LEADERSHIP IN GERMANY AND FRANCE AND THE UK RENEGOTIATION EXERCISE.

3. NEXT MORO WOULD PLAN TO TURN TO THE MIDDLE EAST WITH SOME WORDS OF HIS OWN ABOUT RECENT US ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE AREA

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FOLLOWED BY SOME QUESTIONS TO THE SECRETARY AS TO HOW HE VIEWS

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. IN PARTICULAR MORO WILL WANT TO KNOW WHAT SPECIFIC STEPS ARE ENVISAGED NOT ONLY TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE BUT TO ESTABLISH THE PATTERN OF FUTURE RELATIONS. NOTING THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS, THE US IS NOW FIRMLY IMPLANTED AS THE MAJOR INFLUENCE IN THE AREA, GAJA SAW THE POSSIBILITY FOR GREATER US-ITALIAN COOPERATION, BOTH BILATERALLY AND IN CONCERT WITH OTHERS, IN VIEW OF ITALY'S OWN LONG-STANDING INTEREST IN THE ARAB WORLD, PARTICULARLY WITH TUNISIA, LIBYA AND THE MAGHREB IN GENERAL. IN ADDITION, MORO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SUCH THINGS AS WHEN THE SUEZ CANAL WILL BE OPENED AND WHAT IMPACT ITS OPENING WILL HAVE ON THE STRATEGIC BALANCE. GAJA SAID MORO WOULD ALSO LIKE TO LEARN WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN THE US ARMS POLICY TOWARD THE AREA AND IF THIS MIGHT NOT RESULT IN A CHANGED ATTITUDE TOWARD ITALIAN ARMS SALES TO THIRD COUNTRIES SUCH AS LIBYA. DCM INTERJECTED HERE THAT LIBYA, OF COURSE, REPRESENTED SPECIAL CASE WHICH, AS AS THE US WAS CONCERNED, COULD NOT BE LUMPED WITH OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES.

4. OTHER SUBJECTS WHICH MORO WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS INCLUDE THE MEDITERRANEAN (SPAIN AND PORTUGAL IN PARTICULAR) AND THE ENERGY CRISIS. ON THE LATTER, GAJA SAID TIME HAS SHOWN THAT THE SECRETARY WAS RIGHT WHEN HE WARNED AGAINST AN OVER-DRAMATIZATION OF THE PROBLEM'S DIMENSIONS AND IN CALLING FOR A UNITED EFFORT TO COPE WITH ITS CONSEQUENCES. NOW MORO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT THE SECRETARY SEES AS THE NEXT STEPS TO MORE AHEAD ON THIS FRONT.

5. FINALLY, MORO WOULD WELCOME BRIEFING BY THE SECRETARY ON THE MOSCOW SUMMIT. MORO WOULD EXPECT THAT CSCE AND MBFR, AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS, WOULD BE COVERED AT THIS TIME. ON CSCE, GAJA NOTED THAT MORO'S THINKING HAD MOVED CLOSER TO THE SECRETARY'S IN RECOGNIZING THE DESIRABILITY OF AN EARLY FINALE FOR PHASE II. MAIN REASONS FOR THIS ARE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE, CONCERN THAT DRAWN-OUT CONFERENCE COULD INCREASE DETENTE EUPHORIA AND REALIZATION THAT WEST LIKELY TO LOSE LESS BY BITING THE BULLET NOW. MORO ALSO INTENDS TO GIVE SECRETARY HIS VIEWS ON IMPACT OF DETENTE ON ITALIAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION INCLUDING STRENGTHENING OF COMMUNIST PARTY POSITION. TO COUNTER LATTER DEVELOPMENT, GAJA SAW INCREASED NEED FOR EARLY

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PROGRESS ON EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNIFICATION WHICH COULD HELP TO DIRECT ITALIAN SOCIALISTS AWAY FROM COMMUNISTS AND TOWARD EUROPEAN COOPERATION MOVEMENT. VOLPE

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